

Stockbridge Mass
Aug 24 [1847]

Dear Captain Pratt,

Com^d Mayt writes
me very favorably of getting
you detained to go &
get the Indians. He
will not see you

This is splendid.
Hakapa granted he will
write you because you
have written him & he
will know where you

are. I telegraphed you
last night. I will enter
by me, Care of Comd Hapt
Washington. Today
telling you what I wish
to propose, say which
is this.

(1) As we must
put up a large rather
costly building for the
Indians we must know
just as soon as possible
if the Indians are
really coming. So when

you get out there please
telegram me here at
Stockbridge.

"You ~~can~~ may expect
about (give the number)
days and about (no.)
girls." We are preparing
excellent girls quarters in
Va. Hall, which will
be soon done & will be
all ready for them whenever
they come. We must
find for the young
men, & it is in their

account that I wish
to know so soon. So
please post me as soon
as you can, by telegram.

I have planned a fine
trick building for them
to cost \$11,000.00

(2) Be sure to get
a variety of styles of
first class photographs
of the ^{Indians} youth you bring
letting them appear in
the widest & most

Barbours costume.

I'll pay the cost.
 Have the negatives, then
 we can order all we
 like. If, however, you
 can ^{keep} ~~get~~ up these used
 dresses till you reach
 Hampton we ^{can} have the
 pictures taken there

I don't think it best
 to buy much clothing, any
 at all before reaching
 there because we have a
 very slim allowance

for clothing & we can
make it up cheaper
than one can buy.

We shall have
600 yards of handsome
gray cadet cloth & have
made up at once for the
boys into suits & uniforms.

The pictures will
be very effective &
keep as well.

When ~~the~~ my wife
shall be in a very
special crisis I will

meet you when you reach
Wilmington with Indians.

She is very low, but is
the best of care & if she
shall be as she is, I
would leave her for a
few days. I please
write a telegraph me
that I may know just
when you'll arrive at
H. & "Wilmington" things.

Yours faithfully yours

J. E. Armstrong.